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- 1. SENIOR OFFICIALS HERE HAVE FORMALLY REQUESTED A

  SPECIAL NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE ON PACIFICATION TO

  BE COMPLETED BY 20 JANUARY. ESTIMATE IS TO ASSESS PRESENT STATUS

  AND NEAR TERM PROSPECTS (VIEWED WITH REALISTIC CANDOR). OUR

  PRESENT MASTERS RECOGNIZE THAT ANY SUCH ESTIMATE ALMOST

  CERTAIN TO BE SPRINKLED WITH DIFFERING OR DISSENTING VIEWS,

  BUT APPARENTLY THEY WANT A FULL DRESS STUDY WHICH WILL

  GIVE THEIR SUCCESSORS AN ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEMS AND A

  REPLECTION OF THE VARYING OPINIONS HELD WITHIN THE OFFICIAL

  COMMUNITY. WE NATURALLY NEED YOUR THOUGHTS TO FACTOR INTO

  OUR BASIC DRAFT.
  - 2. THE SHORT FUSED BUT UNDERSTANDABLE DEADLINE WILI

COORDINATING OFFICERS

SECRET

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REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED.

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3. IN ESSENCE, WE NEED YOUR VIEWS ON FIVE ASPECTS OF PACIFICATION. FIRST, ITS OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS AND ANY FACTORS WHICH YOU FEEL ARE CRUCIAL IN THIS REGARD. SECONDLY, WE WOULD LIKE YOUR JUDGMENT AS TO THE CURRENT VULNERABILITIES OF THE PACIFICATION PROGRAM. (WHERE ARE ITS WEAK POINTS, EITHER ORGANIZATIONALLY OR GEOGRAPHICALLY?) THIRDLY, IN VIEW OF THE EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW MONTHS, KIX WHAT IS THE GVN'S CURRENT ATTITUDE TOWARDS PACIFICATION AND WHAT DEGREE OF SUPPORT ARE OUR VIETNAMESE ALLIES REALLY WILLING AND ABLE

CONTINUED.....

RELEASING OFFICER

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TO PROVIDE. FOURTHLY, WE NEED A SUMMARY OF THE COUNTER. \*

MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY THE ENEMY AND YOUR JUDGMENT AS TO THE

EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE COUNTERMEASURES. FIFTHLY, WE SOLICIT YOU

VIEWS AS TO THE OVERALL PROSPECTS FOR PACIFICATION IN THE

NEXT SIX TO TWELVE MONTHS.

4. THE DEADLINE IMPOSED FOR THIS ESTIMATE PRECLUDES A MASSIVE RESEARCH OR DATA-GATHERING PROJECT. WE NEED YOUR RESPONSE, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, BY 6 JANUARY 1969, OR AT THE VERY LATEST BY7 JANUARY. WHAT IS NECESSARY AND DESIRED ARE YOUR GENERAL JUDGMENTS AND OPINIONS ON XMXXXX THESE MATTERS RATHER THAN A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE MERITS OF ANY INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS.

